

### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow.

Claims 12-20 are pending in the application, Claim 11 having been canceled above without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and for indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received from the International Bureau. In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for the Examiner-initialed Form PTO-1449 submitted with its First Information Disclosure Statement on December 23, 2005. Finally, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance.

By the above Amendments, Applicants canceled Claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also amended Claim 12 by rewriting it in independent form. Where appropriate, Applicants have amended other of the dependent claims to depend from Claim 12 instead of canceled Claim 11. Applicants also amended the claims to address the claim objections and § 112 issues. A claim that has been amended in a manner that does not narrow the claim's scope should be accorded its full range of equivalents.

Turning now to the Official Action, Claims 11, 13 and 17 stand objected to for including various informalities. For at least the reasons that follow, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are in order.

As Applicants have canceled Claim 11, the objection to Claim 11 is moot.

Concerning the objection to Claim 13, Applicants amended the claim by deleting "with or without  $\pi$  participation," and removing the underlined text.

Finally, concerning Claim 17, Applicants amended the claim by removing the underlined text. Although Applicants believe it is an acceptable practice to underline claimed variables, Applicants amended the claims to remove the underlined text as requested to expedite prosecution of the application.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections.

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. For at least the reasons that follow, withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Concerning the rejection of Claim 16, Applicants amended the claim to provide antecedent basis for "precursor POS A' or A'" and "precursor resin B' or B'". Applicants further amended Claim 16 by replacing "in a final stage 3" with "--after stage 2--". Support for this amendment can be generally found in the specification.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 16-19.

Claims 11 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalbe (WO 2002/083778). For at least the reasons that follow, withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Official Action states at page 7 that Claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As Applicants have canceled independent Claim 11 and rewritten Claim 12 in independent form and amended the dependent claims, where appropriate, to depend from independent Claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that the § 103(a) over Dalbe is moot. Because all pending claims in the application are now dependent on allowable independent Claim 12, all claims in the application should be deemed patentable over the cited reference.

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection over Dalbe are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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